

Scripture and Background Information for February 23-29

The Unanswered Questions of Jesus

The accounts of Jesus' life are filled with stories, parables, sayings, sermons, and miracles. They're also filled with questions – not just the questions people asked Jesus. They're filled with questions Jesus asked the people who were deciding whether or not to follow Him. During this series, we'll look at the questions Jesus asks, consider their relevance, and challenge ourselves to find answers to the things about us and within us that Jesus wants to know.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Background for John 5:2-9

John's gospel is known for being structured around big Jewish events. In chapter five, this could be the festival of the Passover. Regardless of which festival it is, it's important to realize that lots of people would have been present and witnessed what Jesus was about to do.

Jesus asks a man a seemingly obvious question. However, Jesus recognizes the one main hang up that often prevents us from coming to Him. He recognizes that sometimes we do not understand that we have a problem. However, it was the means that this man struggled with and not the recognition that he had a problem. Knowing the man's true needs, Jesus offers him healing.

Jesus's miraculous healing of this man ultimately leads to the plot to kill Jesus as is recorded in the rest of the chapter. Jesus's question here reminds us to start at the beginning. Do we really want to get better?

**The earliest manuscripts omit verse 4, which states that an angel came and stirred the pool. According to a local tradition and superstition, the first one in the water would be healed after the waters were stirred. However, no Greek manuscript before 400 AD contains these details so most modern translations do not include this verse.

Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

March 1	Mark 4:35-41
March 8	Mark 8: 14-21